



ALA EBTEKAR  
EQUATION OF TIME

G16

# ALA EBTEKAR EQUATION OF TIME

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Gallery 16 Editions is proud to announce the culmination of an ambitious project with artist Ala Ebtekar. *Equation Of Time* is an edition of Cyanotype prints, simultaneously exposed by the light of the sun on the gallery rooftop on April 15th, 2017.

Star gazing, craning our necks to the heavens, is the original source of wonder. This awe-struck observation is at the root of this print project. Astronomer John Herschel— noted for coining the term “photography”—invented the cyanotype process in 1839. It is synchronistic that Ebtekar chose the Cyanotype process for this project as imagery for this print was culled from the NASA archive.

*Equation Of Time* employs a conceit of poetic simplicity: An image of the cosmos / Brought to life by the light of the cosmos / The very thing it describes. The NASA image of the night sky, printed as a negative, was paired and exposed over 24x36 inch sheets by the light of the sun. The Cyanotype process is light absorbed into emulsion on paper after which the image is revealed. A temporary darkroom was built on the roof of Gallery 16 to wash each print away from the direct light of the sun. Each print was dried and flattened for several days. At the center of each cyanotype print we cut an intricate void in the shape of a Persian window, under which a shimmering silver leaf is inserted to reflect light outward. The print, at once, infinitely absorbs light and reflects it back out.

The phrase "equation of time" is widely used to describe the difference between solar time and mechanical time. The daily rotation of the Earth is irregular and the small differences in the length of day, build up to produce longer differences between the two modes of timekeeping. Prior to the invention of mechanical clocks in the mid-17th century, sundials were the only reliable and generally accepted, standard timepieces. The sundial functions around the idea that when the sun reaches its highest point (meridian), it is noon, and when the sun crosses the meridian again the following day, it is noon, again. Mechanical Time functions around the idea that each day is 24 hours long, a notion that is not actually true. There are only four dates during a calendar year when solar time and mechanical time align. April 15th—the date these Cyanotype prints were produced—is one of these significant dates in astronomy.



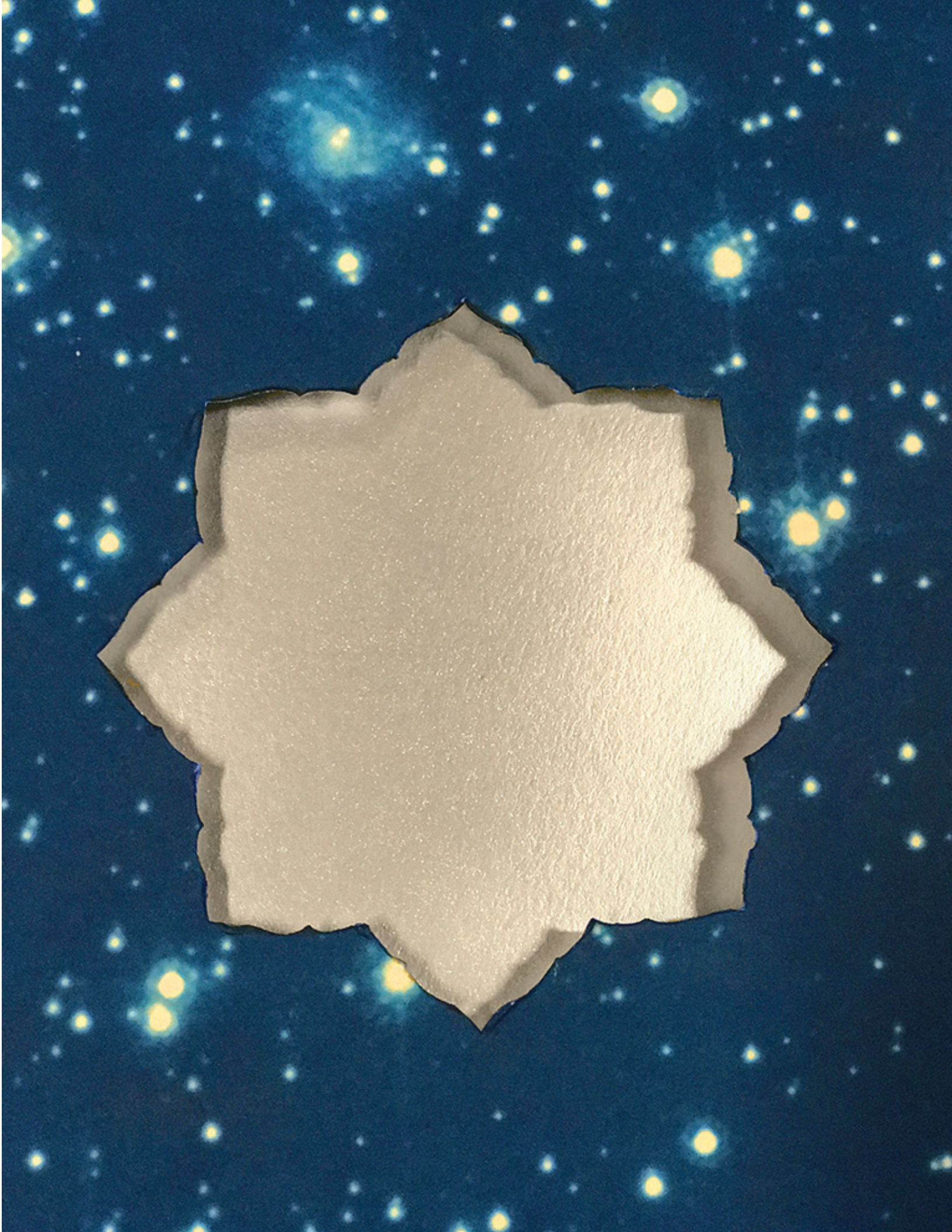






*Equation Of Time*, 2017  
Cyanotype on Arches Platine white 30" x 22"  
with die cut and silver leaf.  
Edition of 19  
Signed and numbered  
Framed, White Shadbox  
\$6,000

















**About the Artist:** Ala Ebtekar is an artist, researcher, and educator. Ala Ebtekar is an American-based visual artist who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ebtekar is known primarily for his work in painting, drawing, and installation that explores the juncture between history and myth, forging a multi-faceted project that melds Persian mythology, science, philosophy and pop culture together. Ala Ebtekar was born to Iranian activist parents and studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and Stanford University, where he now teaches. His upbringing led him to explore the spaces between cultures, both shared and separated. Such experiences evolved into a practice that disquiets dominant notions of identity and complicates cultural difference.

His work has been exhibited internationally and throughout the United States in such shows as “Migrating Identities” at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Asia Society, NYC, the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, “Proximities” at the Asian Art Museum, UAE, the 2014 Xinjiang Biennale, “State of The Art: Discovering American Art Now” at Crystal Bridges Museum, and “The Global Contemporary: Art Worlds After 1989” at the ZKM. Ebtekar’s works are part of notable public and private collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA; Berkeley Art Museum, CA, USA; deYoung Fine Arts Museum, San Francisco, Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt, Germany.





**About Gallery 16 Editions:** Gallery 16 and the The print studio Gallery 16 Editions was founded by artist Griff Williams in 1993. The print studio, Gallery 16 Editions, was amongst the first fine art press in the United States to combine traditional and digital print methods. G16 continues to invite artists to create limited print editions, artist books and multiples employing varied and project specific print methods. Our editions have been made in range of digital and analog media including, 3d printing, copper plate gravure, carbon pigment and cyanotype. The press works in tandem with Gallery 16's exhibition program which has hosted over 250 artists. G16 has worked with influential artists including Michelle Grabner, Ari Marcopoulos, Arturo Herrera, Jim Goldberg, Colter Jacobsen, Bill Berkson, Harrell Fletcher, Lynn Hershman, Amy Ellingson, Amy Franceschini, William Kentridge, Tucker Nichols, Libby Black, Deborah Oropallo, Jim Isermann, Graham Gillmore, Mark Grotjahn, Paul Seitsema, Rebeca Bollinger, Rex Ray, and Margaret Kilgallen.

Ala Ebtakar's editions are available through Gallery 16  
Gallery 16 is located at 501 Third Street, San Francisco, CA 94107  
Inquiries may contact Griff Williams at 415-626-7495  
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